

ST. NEOTS  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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THE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health  
and  
Surveyor & Chief Sanitary  
Inspector  
FOR THE YEAR  
1949



# ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1949

by

EDWARD T. SHENNAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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Madame, Chairman and Gentlemen,

In presenting the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1949, my last as Medical Officer, I wish to take this opportunity to express my grateful thanks for the kindness, help and consideration shown me by members and staff alike during my three years with you.

I have the honour to be,

Madame Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

E. T. SHENNAN.

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health.

E. T. SHENNAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

M. FAWCETT, M.S.I.A., M.R.San. I.

(Tel.: St. Neots 402/3 and Buckden 282).

Additional Sanitary Inspector and Assistant Surveyor.

G. O. MARCH, M.S.I.A., A.R.San. I.

(Tel.: Kimbolton 303).

Water Engineer.

D. W. BEDDOW (resigned 30/6/49). Water Dept. then put under the control of the Surveyor, and S. G. ERRIDGE appointed Water Superintendent.

(Tel.: Kimbolton 348).

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area: 52,559 acres (approximately 81 square miles).

Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1949:—2,382.

Rateable Value of the District: £23,421.

Value of a Penny Rate: £89.

The district is almost entirely agricultural.

## VILLAGES INCLUDED IN THE AREA:—

	Population in 1921.	Population in 1931.
Abbotsley	321	263
Buckden	998	1037
Catworth	384	318
Covington	109	82
Diddington	175	172
Eynesbury Hardwicke	139	139
Grafham	201	200
Great Gransden	458	395
Great Paxton	306	292
Great Staughton	685	651
Hail Weston	265	236
Kimbolton	902 (School Term)	699
Little Paxton	210	229
Midloe	33	40
Offord Cluny	205	217
Offord D'Arcy	293	291
St. Neots Rural	90	68
Southoe	214	211
Stow	90	90
Tetworth	159	131
Tilbrook	192	202
Toseland	138	145
Waresley	183	167
Yelling	225	193
Total	6975	6468

Estimated Population (Mid 1948)	...	6,915
Estimated Population (Mid 1949)	...	7,162

## VITAL STATISTICS.

## LIVE BIRTHS.

	M.	F.	Total	
Legitimate	43	69	112	Birth-rate per 1,000 esti-
Illegitimate	1	6	7	mated population ... 16.61
Total	44	75	119	(Ditto for England and Wales) ... 16. 7

## STILL BIRTHS.

	M.	F.	Total	
Legitimate	-	1	1	Rate per 1,000 estimated population ... 0.14
Illegitimate	-	-	-	(Ditto for England and Wales) ... 0.39
Total	-	1	1	

## DEATHS (ALL AGES).

-	96	-	Death-rate per 1,000 esti-
			mated population ... 13. 4
			(Ditto for England and Wales) ... 11. 7

## DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES:

No. 29 Puerperal and post. abort. sepsis...	Nil.
No. 30 Other maternal causes	1

## DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR:

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	2	2	4



## DEATH RATES OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR.

All infants per 1,000 live births	... 33.61
(Ditto for England and Wales)	... 32.
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	... 35.71
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	... —
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	... 12
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	... 1
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	... —
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	... —

## CAUSES OF DEATH.

(Registrar General's Short List).

List No.	Cause	Male	Female
4	Whooping Cough	...	1
6	Tuberculosis of Resp. System	...	1
7	Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	—
9	Influenza	... 2	2
13	Cancer of buc: cav: & oesoph	... 1	—
14	Cancer of the Stomach and Duodenum	... 1	1
15	Cancer of Breast	...	1
16	Cancer of all other sites	... 4	4
17	Diabetes	...	1
18	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	... 5	8
19	Heart Diseases	... 6	15
20	Other diseases of circulatory system	... 2	2
21	Bronchitis	... 6	3
22	Pneumonia	... 2	2
23	Other Respiratory diseases	... 1	—
24	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	... 1	—
26	Appendicitis	... 1	—
27	Other digestive diseases	...	—
28	Nephritis	... 2	2
30	Other Maternal causes	...	1
31	Premature birth	... 1	—
32	Con. mal. birth inj. infant. dis.	... 1	1
33	Suicide	...	—
34	Road traffic accident	... 1	—
35	Other violent causes	... 3	—
36	All other causes	... 5	6
All Causes		... 45	51

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

## (a) Laboratory Facilities.

The following Laboratory Facilities have been available to this authority and to General Practitioners in the area:

Public Health Laboratory Service, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge. Tel.: Cambridge 55526.

Public Analyst (S. Greenburgh, PH.D, B.Sc., F.I.C.), Tenison Road, Cambridge. Tel.: Cambridge 2097.

## (b) Ambulance Services.

(1) Ambulances administered by the County Ambulance Service, operating in conjunction with the County Fire Service, have been available on doctors' orders (Tel.: Huntingdon 67).

(II) An ambulance, stationed at Huntingdon Isolation Hospital, has been available for cases of infectious disease (Tel.: Huntingdon 59).

## (c) Home Nursing.

Nurse-midwives employed and supervised by the Huntingdon County Council carried out Home Nursing and attended Maternity Cases in the District:—

- (i) A nurse residing in Great Staughton (Tel.: Kimbolton 271), attended cases in Kimbolton, Great Staughton, Grafham, Perry, Tilbrook, Dillington and Hail Weston.
- (ii) A nurse residing in Eltisley (Tel.: Croxton 210), attended cases in Gt. Paxton, The Offords, Toseland, Yelling, Great Gransden, Waresley and Abbotsley.
- (iii) A nurse residing in Brampton (Tel.: Huntingdon 336), attended in Buckden, Diddington and Southoe.
- (iv) A nurse residing in Catworth (Tel.: Bythorn 217), attended in Catworth and Covington.
- (v) Little Paxton was attended by a nurse living in St. Neots (Tel.: St. Neots 215).

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

(I) The following Health Services, provided by the Huntingdon County Council, were available:—

Clinic.	Patients seen.	When held	Where held.
Minor Ailments	Schoolchildren	1st Thursday in month	Liberal
		10—11.30 a.m.	Club, St. Neots.
		1st Friday in month	Village
		10.30—11.30 a.m.	Hall, Gt. Staughton.
		Every Monday,	Old Gram-
		9.30—10.30 a.m.	mar School, Huntingdon.
Infant Welfare	Children (0—5 years)	Every Thursday,	Liberal
		2—4 p.m.	Club, St. Neots.
		Third Monday in month, 2—4 p.m.	Mandeville Hall, Kimbolton.
		Third Tuesday in month, 2—4 p.m.	Methodist Schoolroom, Buckden.
		First Friday in month, 2—4 p.m.	Village Hall, Gt. Staughton.
Dental	Pre-School and School-children.	1st Thursday in month,	Red Cross
		10 a.m.—12 noon,	Room,
		2—3.30 p.m.	High St. St. Neots
	Pre-Natal & nursing mothers.	Every Wednesday (except 2nd in month) & every Saturday	Princes Street, Huntingdon.
		10 a.m.—12 noon by appointment).	

(II) The following Health Services are the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board, but administered on an agency basis by the Huntingdon County Council were available:—

Clinic.	Patients seen.	When held	Where held.
Ophthalmic	Pre-School and Schoolchildren.	1st and 3rd Fridays in month (by appointment except in emergency)	Old Grammar School, Huntingdon.
		10 a.m.—12 noon, 2—4 p.m.	
Orthopaedic	Ditto	2nd and 4th Tuesdays in month, (by appointment),	Ditto
		10 a.m.—12 noon	



Clinic.	Patients seen.	When held	Where held.
Chest	All ages	Every Monday, 2.30—3.30 p.m.	County Hospital, Huntingdon.

(III) The following Health Services were provided by Regional Hospital Board.:

Venereal Diseases	All cases	Tuesday, 3 p.m. Thursday, 7 p.m.	Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.
		Males: Wed. and Fri., 4—6 p.m. Females: Wed. 4—6 p.m., Fri. 10—12 noon.	28, Fitz- william Street, Peter- borough.

Medical, Surgical, Orthopaedic, Paediatric, Skin, Obstetrical, Gynaecological and Dental Out-patient Clinics are held at Huntingdon County Hospital and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, to which General Practitioners can refer their patients for specialist investigation.

#### (e) Hospital Services.

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, all hospitals in the area came under the control of the Regional Hospital Board.

**Fever:**—Huntingdon Isolation Hospital provided facilities for the investigation and treatment of infectious diseases.

**General Hospital Services** were provided by the County Hospital, Huntingdon, and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

**Maternity Cases** were admitted to Paxton Park Maternity Home, St. Neots. Admissions are arranged through the County Medical Officer.

#### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (Section 47)

Under Section 47 of this Act; if the Medical Officer of Health certifies to the Local Authority that an aged or infirm person is 'in need of care and protection,' being unable to look after him or herself, or is not receiving from other persons proper care and protection, the Authority can approach a court of summary jurisdiction to request that person's removal to suitable premises.

A number of cases were brought to my notice during the year which were considered to fall within this section. Fortunately, with the helpful aid of the Welfare Officer, Mr. Ashwell, and the Nursing Services, by persuasion or provision of suitable help, satisfactory solutions were found without reverting to the powers given under the Act.

#### PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Scarlet Fever	...	2
Whooping Cough	...	24
Diphtheria	...	Nil
Measles	...	42
Acute Pneumonia	...	10
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	7
Typhoid Fever	...	Nil
Erysipelas	...	1
Infective Hepatitis	...	1
		—
Total	...	87
		—

There was little to note concerning the incidence of infectious disease, beyond the slight rise in measles notifications over last year—the usual biennial rise.

#### FOOD POISONING

There were no cases of food poisoning reported during the year.

### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Little change was shown, from figures available, in the percentage of the child population in the district protected by immunisation against diphtheria at the end of 1949. Only 52% of the child population (0—14 years), and 52.8% of the babies (0—4 years) were so protected.

These figures are poor.

Every effort should be sustained to get mothers to have their children, **especially their babies**, immunised against this deadly disease.

Facilities for Diphtheria Immunisation are available at Infant Welfare Clinics through the School Medical Service, and from General Practitioners.

### TUBERCULOSIS.

Total No. on Register at 31st December, 1949—34) (Pulmonary 25, Non-Pulmonary 9).

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 ... ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 ... ..	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 ... ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 ... ..	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Total...	4	4	—	1	—	1	—	—

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

The Chief Sanitary Inspector Reports as follows:—

#### WATER SUPPLY

At the end of 1949 the Council had main water schemes in all of their parishes, and considering the sparsely-populated nature of the area this is an achievement of which they can be justly proud.

The Buckden scheme, although working in each of the villages served, is not finally completed, as certain works have to be carried out at Pumping Stations, and one or two short new main extensions are contemplated.

The Gt. Paxton water scheme is now superceded.

Advantage is being taken of these schemes by owners and occupiers and many properties are being connected to the mains every week. The position is not yet stabilised, but the table on Page 7 is a guide to the situation. In many cases owners have been requested to lay-on the water and usually this approach proved successful. Several statutory notices were served when such requests had failed, and in four instances the Council carried out the work in default and recovered the cost.



# REPORT ON WATER SUPPLY FOR ST. NEOTS RURAL DISTRICT FOR 1949.

Name of Town, Village or Parish	Source of Supply, Public Supply, Wells, etc.	Sufficiency or Otherwise	Quality of Water	Analysis of In- dividual Supplies Satisfactory, Unsatisfactory, or none	Private Supplies only.	No. of such Analysis	Estimated No. of Dwellings Supplied				Estimated Population Supplied	
							By Stand-pipes	By public or private wells	Direct from Main Supply	By Stand-pipes	By public or private wells	By public or private wells
Abbotsley	Public Main	Suff.	Satis.	Nil		—	47	1	160	161	3	3
Buckden	"	"	"	Nil		—	157	123	460	200	342	342
Catworth	"	"	"	Nil		—	33	9	135	152	31	31
Covington	"	"	"	Nil		—	13	5	48	52	18	18
Diddington	"	"	"	5 Unsatisfactory, 7 Satisfactory		12	1	48	4	71	241	241
Eynesbury H.	U.D.C. Mains & Wells	"	"	Nil		—	12	8	50	56	33	33
Grafham	Public Main	"	"	Nil		—	1	17	4	135	61	61
Gt. Gransden	"	"	"	Nil		—	85	17	207	112	61	61
Gt. Paxton	"	"	"	Nil		—	74	3	222	90	9	9
Gt. Staughton	"	"	"	Nil		—	82	37	240	250	110	110
Hail Weston	"	"	"	Nil		—	36	47	122	18	147	147
Kimbolton	"	"	"	3 Unsatisfactory, 3 Satisfactory		6	200	9	769	200	30	30
Lt. Paxton	"	"	"	2 Unsatisfactory		2	29	31	80	23	97	97
Offord Cluny	"	"	"	Nil		—	52	17	160	46	48	48
Offord Darcy	"	"	"	Nil		—	53	40	144	27	117	117
Southoe & Midloe	"	"	"	Nil		—	28	39	78	30	108	108
St. Neots Rural	U.D.C. Mains & Wells	"	"	Nil		—	16	6	50	—	18	18
Stow	Public Main	"	"	Nil		—	22	3	81	26	11	11
Tetworth	R.D.C. Mains & Wells	"	"	Nil		—	15	12	40	14	31	31
Tilbrook	Public Main	"	"	Nil		—	46	2	117	80	5	5
Toseland	"	"	"	Nil		—	20	6	65	45	28	28
Waresley	"	"	"	Nil		—	37	8	106	36	25	25
Yelling	"	"	"	Nil		—	45	9	111	55	27	27
							20					

\* In 3 cases of unsatisfactory samples, public main water has been substituted, and in two cases the well formed a proposed supply to a proposed new house and consequently the plans were rejected. In the case of 5 unsatisfactory samples from Diddington the landlord has agreed to substitute main water supplies to all the houses in the village.

Particulars regarding plumbo-solvent action connected with above supplies:—Nil.

### CESSPOOL EMPTYING

The Council arrange for this work to be done by private contractor at the applicant's expense. 34 Private and 18 public cesspools were emptied during the year.

The new Dennis Cesspool Emptying Machine deals with the sewage tanks on the Council's Housing Sites.

### SEWERS AND DISPOSAL

No change has taken place during the year. The Buckden—Offord and Kimbolton—Great Staughton Schemes have been delayed. As previously stated, the problem of sewerage and sewage disposal in most of the parishes will be an urgent one when full benefit is taken of the new main water schemes.

12 piped sewers and 12 open ditches received attention during 1949.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING

The scheme of refuse and nightsoil collection, outlined in the 1947 report, continues to operate smoothly. The new Dennis cesspool emptier was brought into use in February, 1949, and thereafter nightsoil service was extended from 17 parishes to the whole of the villages in the area.

The new refuse tip at Stirtloe has been brought into use, and the one at Lucks Lane, Buckden, discontinued. Early in 1950 the Council are proposing to level and seed down the disused Buckden tip.

During the year, arrangements were made for the Biggleswade R.D.C. to collect nightsoil and refuse on behalf of this Council from part of the isolated parish of Tetworth.

The Council decided not to operate a dustbin provision scheme under Section 75 (3) of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The Council are to be congratulated upon operating a Public Cleansing System throughout the whole of this scattered area.

### MAIN PIPED SUPPLIES.

Source of Supply.	Parishes Supplied.
a.—South Cambs. R.D.C.:	Abbotsley, Waresley, Gt. Gransden and Tetworth.
b.—Raunds U.D.C.:	Kimbolton, Covington, Catworth, Tilbrook and Stow.
c.—Diddington:	Buckden, Diddington, Grafham, Southoe, Lt. Paxton, Hail Weston, Offords, Gt. Paxton, Tose-land and Yelling.
d.—Staughton Moor:	Gt. Staughton and Perry.

### BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS ON RAW WATER.

Total No. of Samples: a, nil; b, nil; c, nil.

### BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS ON TREATED WATER.

Total No. of Samples: a, 1; b 1; c, 1; d 1. No. Satis. 4.

### PARTICULARS OF UNSATISFACTORY ANALYSES & ACTION TAKEN—Nil.

### DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES IN PROGRESS.

Good progress was maintained during 1949 on the work of supplying premises with a public main water supply. Ancillaries to the Council's main water schemes, like water towers, pumping stations, etc., were brought into use, and it is now possible for all, except very isolated premises, to benefit by these schemes. It will be necessary to investigate all properties not taking a public supply with a view to action if the existing supply is found to be unsatisfactory. All public standpipes are to be removed.



## PARTICULARS OF ANY CHEMICAL ANALYSES:

Buckden Scheme, Gt. Staughton Scheme, Kimbolton Scheme and Abbotsley Scheme had satisfactory samples; 4/4/49 in each case.

## WELLS.

New wells sunk: Nil.

Wells cleansed and repaired: 1.

Wells closed as polluted: 1.

Number of samples obtained for analysis found to be:—

Satisfactory: 10.

Unsatisfactory: 10.

Any insufficiency: No.

## SALVAGE.

The scheme of paying a Salvage bonus to the Council's own workmen continued to operate satisfactorily during 1949. As previously pointed out, a large amount of salvage is collected in this area by a local dealer, Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, etc. The Council entered the National Salvage competition and were fortunate in securing 3rd prize of £250. A portion of this prize was distributed to the workmen and another portion used for tree planting to beautify the various housing sites in the area. The amounts of salvage collected by the R.D.C. workmen were as follows:—Waste Paper, 13 tons; Rags, 3 cwts.; Lead, 18 cwts. 1 qr. Total value £109. The value of the salvage and the prize is equal to a 4d. rate.

It is regretted that at the end of the year the market for salvage was declining.

## SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE:—

Total number of notices served	...	78
Informal	...	65
Formal	...	13
Total number of notices complied with	...	81
Informal	...	72
Formal	...	12
Work in default	...	4

## ANALYSIS OF INSPECTIONS MADE:—

Housing Act	...	30
Council House Maintenance	...	711
Houses, etc. Under P.H. Act, 1936	...	241
Houses, etc. Under P.H. Act, 1936 re-visits	...	138
Supervising erection of new buildings	...	161
Sewers	...	220
Post War Housing	...	202
Shop Acts	...	1
Cowsheds	...	34
Dairies	...	29
Bakehouses	...	4
Drains Tested	...	111
Infectious Disease	...	8
Rooms disinfected	...	13
Schools	...	1
Ice Cream	...	5
Vermin	...	2
Requisitioning	...	2
Water Supply (samples taken 24)	...	890
Scavenging	...	76
Food Premises	...	29
Rats and Mice	...	27
Building Licences	...	16



Salvage	...	22
Miscellaneous	...	192
Moveable Dwellings	...	31
Factories (with power)	...	2
Factories (without power)	...	4
Interviews	...	783
Mosquitoes	...	6
Milk Samples	...	7
Pigs	...	1
Fried Fish Shop	...	1
Housing Applications	...	68
Overcrowding	...	202
Petroleum	...	8
Milk Sampling	...	7
Total Defects Remedied or Nuisances abated	...	516

#### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION, ETC.

Number of houses with pail or tub closets in area (estimated)	...	1467
Number of houses with W.C.'s in area (estimated)	...	746
Number of pails reconstructed as W.C.s in 1949	...	35
Number of new additional W.C.'s provided at existing property...	...	2
Number of W.C.'s constructed in 1949 for new premises	...	93
Number of new pails provided	...	36
Number of new dustbins provided	...	15

#### FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Total number on Register (including bakehouse)	...	62
Number in which defects remedied (none found)	...	Nil
Bakehouses, number on Register	...	9
Number in which defects remedied	...	Nil
Number of notices served	...	Nil
Number of notices complied with	...	Nil

#### PETROLEUM STORAGE LICENCES

Three new applications were received during the year leaving 27 premises on the register, all of which were licensed.

#### RATS AND MICE

The joint scheme with the Urban District outlined in previous reports continued to operate efficiently.

No. of complaints received	48
No. of premises treated	57
No. of visits made	325
No. of rat bodies estimated to have been destroyed	1800
No. of rat bodies found	979
(These figures relate to the Rural area only).	

#### MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Three sites continued to be licensed during the year subject to the usual conditions, and no cause for complaint was noted. One application was refused.

#### HOUSING INSPECTION

The following table shows the work undertaken during 1949. Once again the major energies of the Council have been directed towards the provision of new houses, but I am pleased to report that action has been taken against some of the worst houses existing in the area. Urgent repairs have been dealt with usually under the Public Health Act, 1936.

In one case an improvement grant was obtained under the 1949 Housing Act, involving the conversion of a large country house into three flats.

The welfare of aged and infirm people occasionally gives rise to anxiety, but co-operation between the Public Health and Welfare Authorities has so far attained the desired result in each case brought to our notice.

No. of new houses completed during the year, Permanent, 49; Temporary Nil.

No. of new houses provided by adaptation of old premises, Permanent, 4; Temporary, Nil.

No. of new houses under construction at the end of the year, Permanent, 46; Temporary, Nil.

### HOUSING TABLE

#### 1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:—

- |         |   |     |     |
|---------|---|-----|-----|
| (1) (a) | Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)   | ... | 271 |
| (b)     | Number of inspections made for the purpose  | ... | 409 |
| (2) (a) | Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932   | ... | —   |
| (b)     | Number of inspections made for the purpose  | ... | —   |
| (3)     | Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation                                    |     | 3   |
| (4)     | Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | ... | 61  |

#### 2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 51

#### 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—

##### (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- |     |   |     |   |
|-----|---|-----|---|
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | ... | — |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:— |     |   |
| (a) | By owners   | ... | — |
| (b) | By Local Authority in default of owners   | ... | — |

##### (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

- |     |  |     |    |
|-----|--|-----|----|
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ... | 13 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—         |     |    |
| (a) | By owners  | ... | 9  |
| (b) | By Local Authority in default of owners  | ... | 4  |

##### (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

- |     |  |     |   |
|-----|--|-----|---|
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made... | ... | 1 |
|-----|--|-----|---|



- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... .. —
- (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—
- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... —
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... —
4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding.
- (a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... .. 7
- (2) Number of families dwelling therein ... 7
- (3) Number of persons dwelling therein ... 35½
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... .. —
- (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... .. 3
- (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 18½
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... .. —
- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ... .. —

#### COUNCIL HOUSE MAINTENANCE

711 visits were made and 251 orders were issued for repairs.

Electric lighting has been installed in 14 old houses, main water was laid on to 110 old houses, 20 pail closets have been converted into W.C.'s. Otherwise the remarks in the 1946 Report still apply.

A survey of all Council houses in the area revealed that 20% of the houses were under occupied and 10% were overcrowded on a bedroom standard although not overcrowded under the Housing Act, 1936. This survey gives additional proof to my remarks that a number of smaller type houses are required to re-house the families consisting of 1, 2, or 3 persons now occupying 3 bedroom type houses.

This would release 3 bedroom houses for larger families. The problem is a difficult one on the rent question, as the rent of a new small house would probably be greater than the rent of the old large house.

#### POST WAR HOUSING

202 visits were made during the year, mainly in connection with the supervision of new house building, construction of roads, sewers, etc. The Council now own 20 housing sites scattered about their 23 parishes, and 3 other sites are in process of negotiations. 18 of these sites have been developed.

A Clerk of the Works now supervises the erection of new houses under the direction of the Architect. Housing progress during the year was as follows:—



Parish	Completed during year	Under construction	Total built since 1945
Abbotsley	... 2	2	6
Buckden	... 18	8	22
Gt. Gransden	... —	—	12
Gt. Staughton	... 2	4	6
Gt. Paxton	... 4	6	10
Kimbolton	... —	—	6
Offord Darcy	... 4	—	4
Offord Cluny	... —	12	4
Stow Longa	... —	—	4
Tilbrook	... —	—	8
Yelling	... —	—	6
Grafham	... —	—	6
Hail Weston	... 6	8	6
Little Paxton	... 4	—	4
Southoe	... —	4	—
	40	44	104

9 new private houses were completed during the year and 4 additional houses were provided by conversions.

#### BUILDING LICENCES

45 licences were granted during 1949.

#### NEW BUILDINGS

81 plans of new buildings or alterations were deposited. One plan was rejected on account of unsatisfactory water supply and another on account of drainage. 161 visits were paid to works in progress.

#### NAMING AND NUMBERING OF STREETS AND HOUSES

At the end of the year, the Council decided to carry out such work in the parishes where the Parish Councils had requested this work to be done and also in parishes not having Parish Councils, which in the opinion of the R.D.C. require this action.

#### MILK AND DAIRIES

During the year 5 samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination, of which 1 satisfied the test and 4 failed. Most of the unsatisfactory samples only just failed.

During the year 1 new cowshed, and 1 new dairy were constructed. 2 existing cowsheds and 2 existing dairies were structurally repaired and renovated to bring them up to a satisfactory standard.

Of the 78 cowkeepers in the area, 13 hold "Tuberculin Tested" licences, 5 hold "Accredited" licences, and 5 dairymen have supplementary designation licences.

Number of cowkeepers and wholesale purveyors of milk in District—78.

Number of registered retail purveyors—36.

Number of inspections of premises—63.

Number of inspections during milking time—12.

Number of premises requiring white-washing, cleansing, etc.—6.

Number in which requirements of Sanitary Authority were carried out—6.

Number of premises requiring structural or sanitary improvements—2.

Number in which requirements of Sanitary Authority were carried out—2.

Number of premises with well water supply—11.

Mains supply of water—67.

Number of wells from which water analysed—nil.

Number of retailers from outside the district—6.

### FOOD INSPECTION

During the year 214 lbs. of food were condemned as unfit for consumption—this was chiefly tinned food, butter and oatmeal.

Four premises are registered for the sale of prepacked ice cream and one under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. It will be necessary to take steps to check upon all premises falling within Section 14 in the near future with a view to registration.

All slaughtering of animals for sale still takes place at the Urban District Council's slaughterhouse.

### SLAUGHTERMEN'S LICENCES

10 have been renewed during the year and 2 new granted.

There are 8 slaughterhouses in the area, none of which are in regular use. The only slaughtering taking place is that of cottagers private pigs.

### DERELICT HOUSES

Informal action under Section 58 of the Public Health Act, 1936, was taken against 3 houses all of which were subsequently demolished. In one case only was it necessary to apply to Magistrates for an Order. Action against 2 other houses was deferred pending operation of the Housing Act, 1949.









